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Docket No.: 4497-003PATENTAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An ~~[[A]]~~ alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or attached to fastener equipment for securing an item, wherein said apparatus comprises~~[[-]]~~ :

first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the first and second elements are together; wherein ~~at least~~ one of the elements ~~is arranged~~ includes a bell having a clapper or ball for providing to provide an alert indication directed to the user, when the element is moved;

wherein movement of said clapper or ball is said alert indication being suppressed when the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another thereby suppressing the alert indication.

2. (currently amended): The ~~[[A]]~~ alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least~~ one of said elements includes a bell having a clapper or ball for providing said alert indication.

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3. (currently amended): The [[A]] alert apparatus according to claim 2, wherein movement of said clapper or ball is suppressed when the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another.

4. (currently amended): The [[A]] alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing an aperture in an item closed, and said first and second elements are moveable together for closing the aperture and moveable apart for opening the aperture.

5. (currently amended): The [[A]] alert apparatus according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing first and second members together, and said first and second elements are moveable together for attaching said first and second members and moveable apart for detaching said first and second members.

6. (currently amended): The [[A]] alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein ~~at least~~ one of said elements [[has]] have magnetic means for suppressing said alert indication by means of magnetic force.

7. (currently amended): The [[A]] alert apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 1 [[5]], wherein ~~at least~~ one of said elements [[has]] have mechanical means for suppressing said alert indication by means of mechanical action.

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8. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any one of claim~~ 1, and ~~4-7~~, wherein ~~one of~~ said elements includes an electronic device operable to emit light, sound, vibration or any combination thereof for providing said alert indication.

9. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein both said elements are arranged to provide an alert indication.

10. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a magnetic force.

11. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a surface fastener or a buckle.

12. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein ~~at least~~ one of said elements is connected to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item.

13. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first element is connected to a first slider, and said second element is connected to a second slider.

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14. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~[-12]]~~, wherein said first element is connected to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item, and said second element is disposed on said wearable or portable item in a fixed position relative to said item.

15. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to claim 12, ~~13 or 14~~, wherein said slide fastener is a zip fastener.

16. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said item is a portable item or a wearable item.

17. (currently amended): The [[A]]alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or attached to fastener equipment for closing an aperture in an item, wherein said apparatus comprises~~[[-]]~~:

first and second elements, which are moveable together for closing said aperture and apart for opening said aperture; wherein ~~at least one of the elements~~ includes a bell having a clapper or ball for providing ~~is arranged to provide~~ an alert indication directed to the user, when the element is moved; wherein movement of said clapper or ball is alert indication being suppressed when the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another thereby suppressing the alert indication.

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18. (currently amended): The [[A]] alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated for incorporation into or attachment to fastener equipment for securing an item, wherein said apparatus comprises~~[[-]]~~:

first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the first and second elements are together when incorporated in or attached to the fastener equipment; wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed when the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another.

19. (new): The alert apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing first and second members together, and said first and second elements are moveable together for attaching said first and second members and moveable apart for detaching said first and second members.

20. (new): The alert apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said elements have mechanical means for suppressing said alert indication by means of mechanical action.

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